

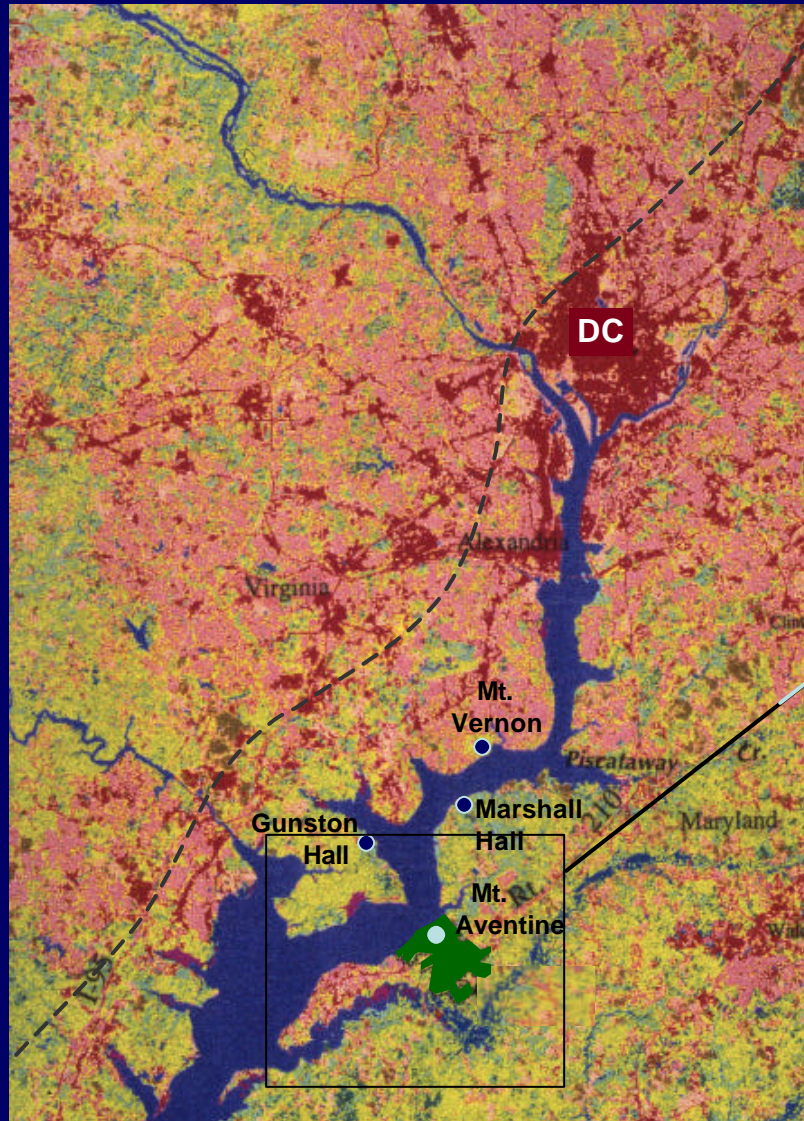
# An Introduction to Chapman Forest History & Nature on the Tidewater Potomac



Chapman Forest Foundation



# Chapman Forest Overview



- ◇ 1998 Md acquisition
- ◇ 2250 acres
- ◇ 90% wooded
- ◇ 2 1/4 mi Pot. Shoreline
- ◇ Mt. Aventine (1840)

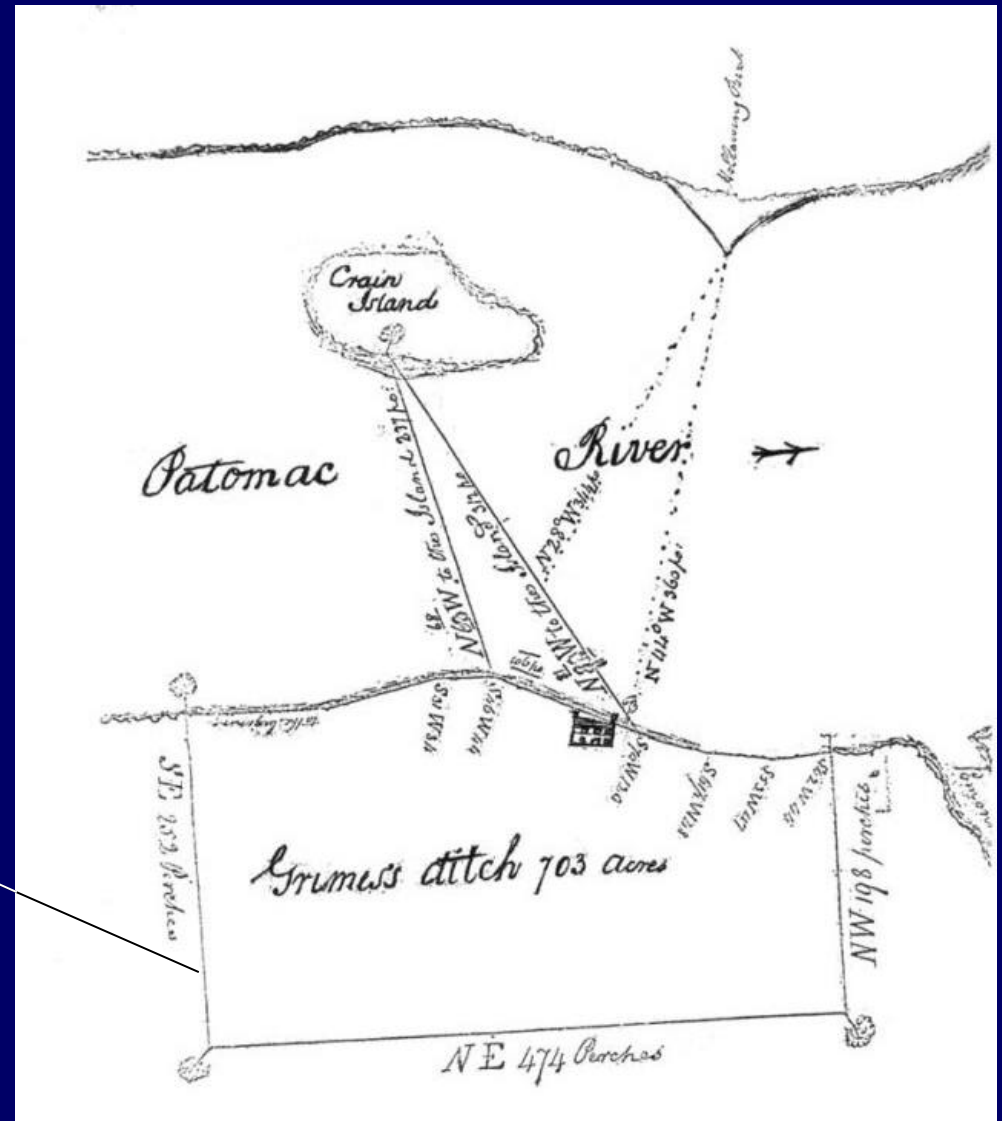


# Grimes Ditch, 1673

## Charles Calvert patent to Luke Gardiner



Boundary ditch



# Augustine Herrman's 1670 Map (detail)

Mason Neck

Chapman  
Forest

"Pamunky  
Indian Land"

Charles Co.,  
MD





# Nathaniel Chapman's 10-room house on the river



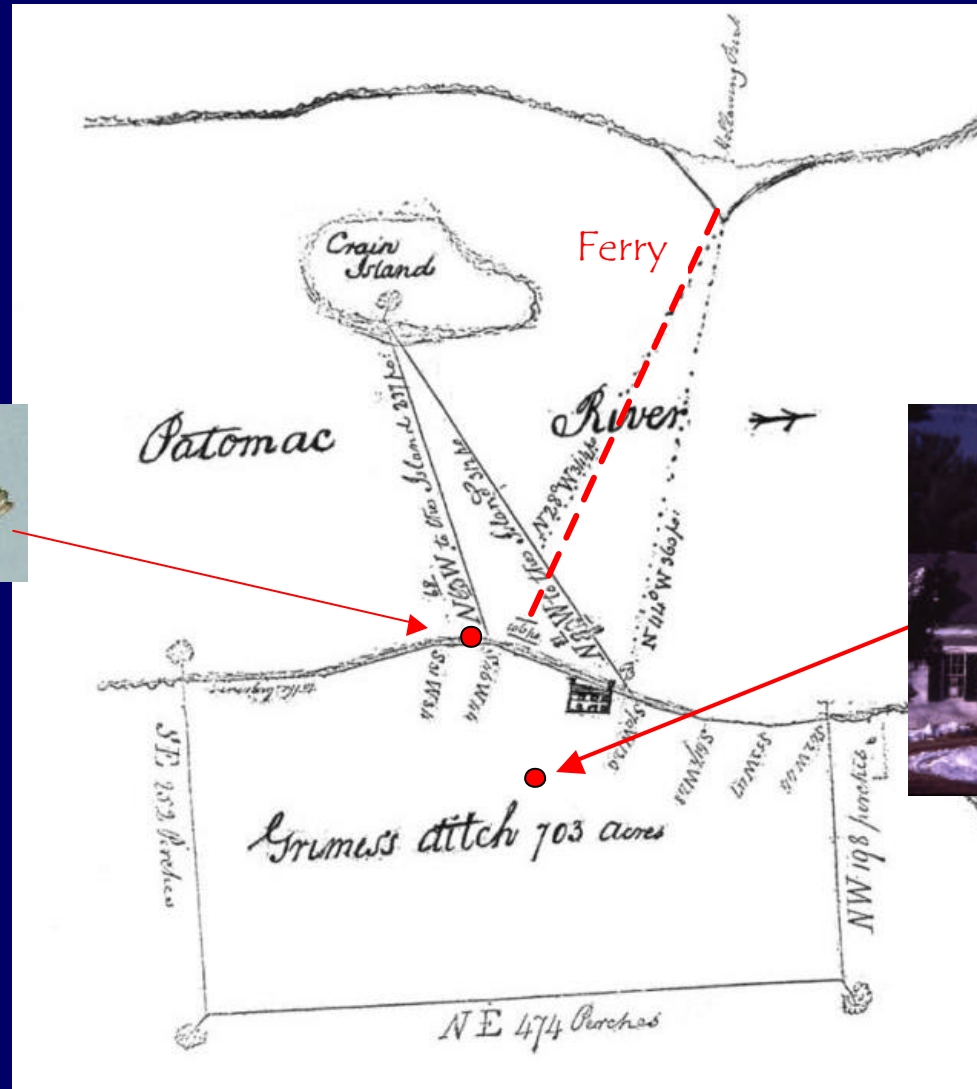
# Nathaniel Chapman (1709-1760)

- ♦ General manager, Principio Iron Works 1735-1760
- ♦ The Washington connection:
  - ♦ Close friend and business associate of Augustine (Gus) & son Lawrence
  - ♦ Executor of the Gus & Lawrence Washingtons' estates
  - ♦ Nathaniel's daughter Lucy married Sam Washington
- ♦ Founding member & 1<sup>st</sup> Treasurer, Ohio Company of Virginia
- ♦ Close friend and business associate of George Mason
- ♦ Helped found the City of Alexandria--1749

# Chapman Dynasty at Grimes Ditch: 1750-1914



Fishery



1840



# Mt. Aventine





# Mt. Aventine Manor House



Viewed from river



Oldest structure  
(stone)  
late 1700's



Front addition  
(brick)  
c. 1930

Manor House  
(brick)  
1840

Addition  
(brick)  
1860

Garage  
(brick)  
c. 1930



## Other Historical Assets



Chapman Cemetery



Ruins  
Robert Chapman House  
c. 1880



Thomas Brown House  
(freed slave)  
c. 1870 ?



# View from Manor House





# Natural History



# Giant trees & environmental history



Sycamore

circumference: 15'

Ohio valley specimen reported by George Washington: ~60'

(West Virginia, A Guide to the Mountain State, 1941)



# Widely Varied Habitats Support Varied Communities

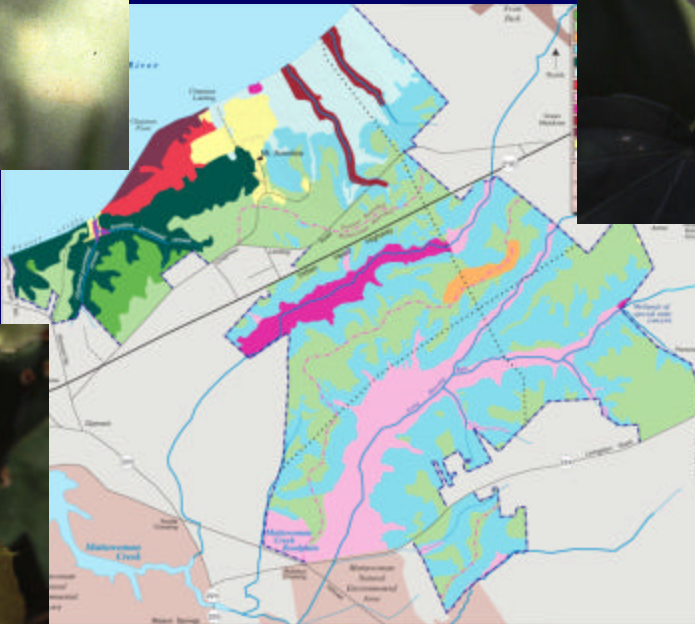


Over 3-dozen  
state-rare  
species



Swamp Milkweed

Prickly-Pear Cactus

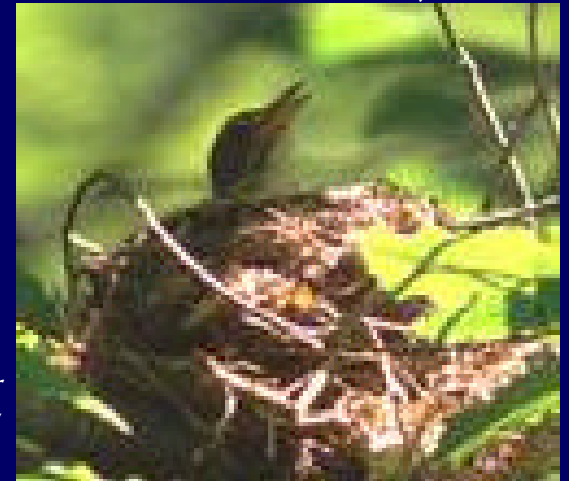


Halberd-leaved Hibiscus

Wood Thrush



Declining  
"forest-interior  
dwellers"





# Shell-marl Ravine Forest

## Old-growth Forest & Disjunct 'limestone species'



Md's largest pop. of state-rare Glade Fern



Dramatic ravines



State co-champion  
Chinquapin Oak



Globally-rare land snail:  
5-toothed Vertigo



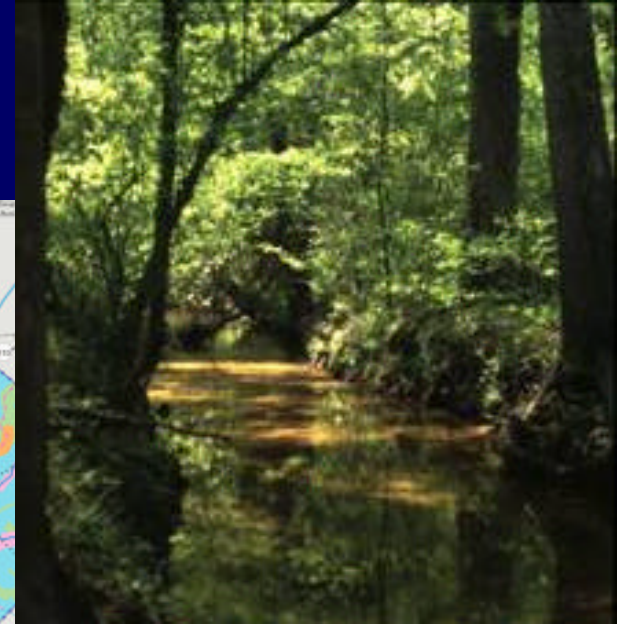
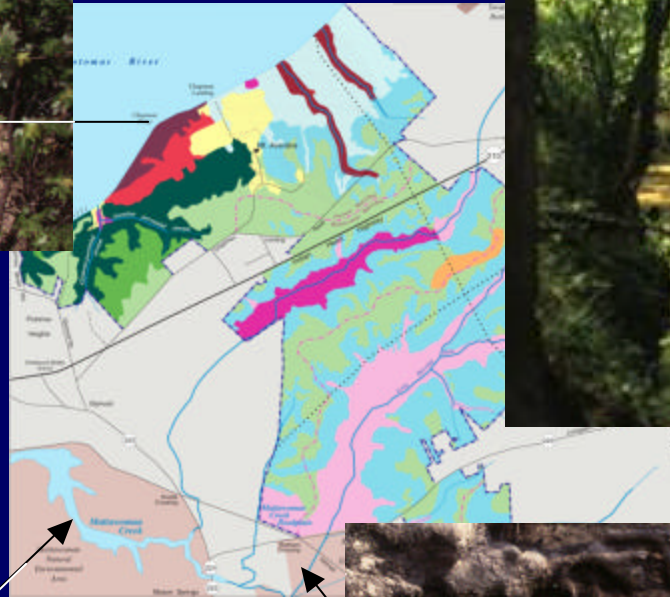
Flora relate to regions far up Potomac  
(e.g. limestone cliffs at Shepherdstown W.Va.)



# Environmental History: Chapman's Shad/Herring Fishery



Chapman Pt



Mattawoman Creek:  
Most productive anadromous-fish  
nursery known in Chesapeake Bay  
system (Md DNR surveys)

Alewife  
herring



# Potomac Shad & River Herring Fisheries



Potomac seine-haul fishery for the  
spring run of anadromous fish



Excess fish marketed in Alexandria



# Chapman's Shad & River Herring Fishery

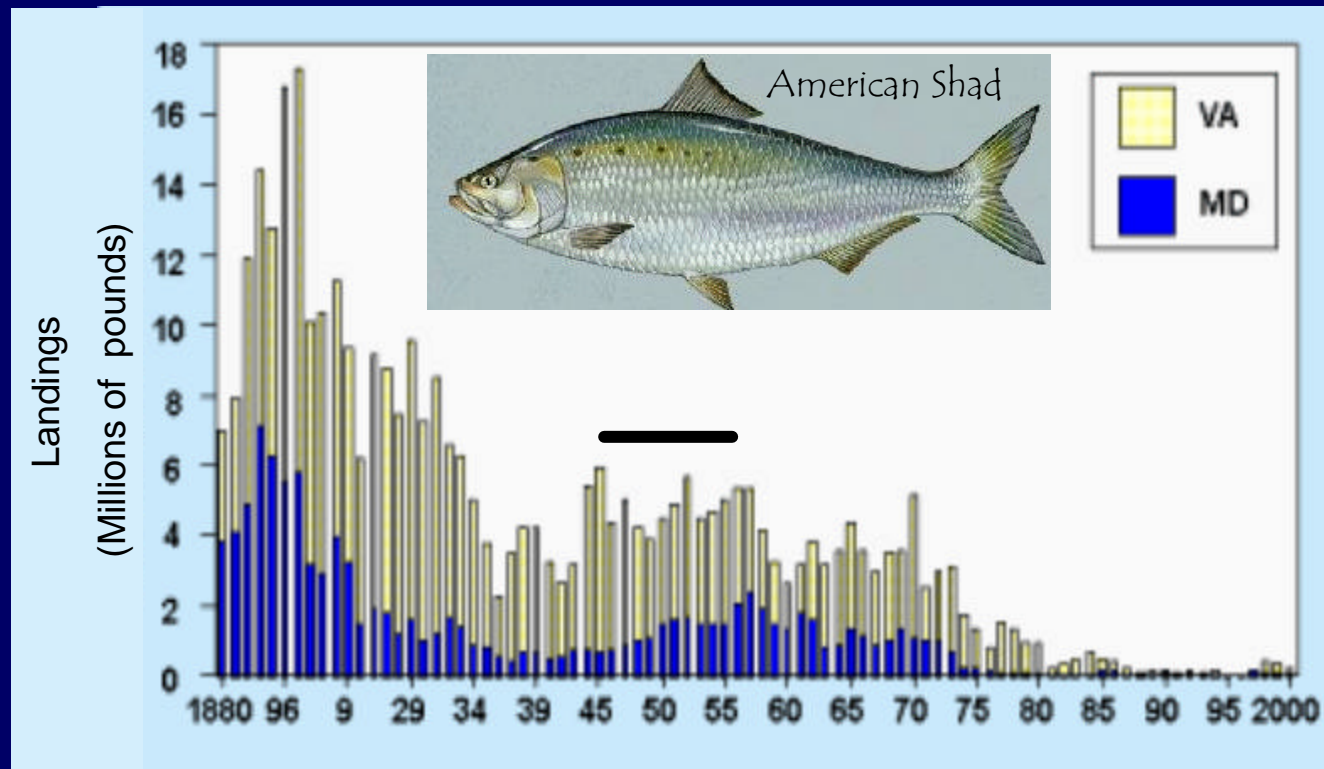
Chesapeake Science  
vol. 2, 76-81 (1961)

## A Potomac River Shad Fishery, 1814-1824<sup>1</sup>

WILLIAM H. MASSMANN

### ABSTRACT

The original record books of George Chapman, Esq., haul seine fisherman for American



Alewife  
herring



Blueback  
herring

# History & Nature on the Tidewater Potomac



Chapman Forest Foundation



# Chapman's Mill at Thoroughfare Gap, Va.



1992 photo



1998 arson